

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 25 and 26 without prejudice. Please amend the claims as follows:

a¹ 13. A method of preventing the development of an autoimmune disorder in a subject comprising, administering an enhancing agent to the subject, wherein the enhancing agent comprises a bacterium or a multicellular parasite or a substance derived therefrom.

16. A method of ameliorating the symptoms of an ongoing autoimmune disorder in a subject comprising administering the enhancing agent of claim 13 to the subject.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the enhancing agent is a substance derived from a bacterium.

a² 18. The method of claim 13 or 17, wherein the enhancing agent is administered orally.

19. The method of claim 31, wherein the enhancing agent is a bacterium of a genus selected from the group consisting of: *Lactobacillus*, *Mycobacteria*, *Bordatella*, *Corynebacterium*, *Streptococcus*, or *Hemophilus*.

20. The method of claim 13 or 17, wherein the enhancing agent is derived from a bacterium belonging to the genus *Mycobacteria*.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the enhancing agent is administered orally.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein the enhancing agent is lipopolysaccharide.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the enhancing agent is in the form of a bacterial cell lysate.